



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Executive Director's Report November 16, 2017

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Occupational and Physical Therapy (OT/PT)

Occupational and physical therapy are related services that are provided to students as identified on an IEP or services agreement. The primary focus of this program is to provide services that will help the student benefit from an appropriate special education program or regular education program through compensations for sensory and gross or fine motor deficits. The therapist evaluates the student within the school setting or typical environment and develops recommendations combining the OT or PT concerns with the school program. Services promote the development of fine motor dexterity and coordination, visual motor skills, self-regulation, gross motor skills balance, strength and coordination, postural stability and control, appropriate positioning and mobility, independence in daily activities, and improved quality of movement.

Program features may include:

- Individual or small group therapy
- Ongoing support for students through OT/PT service integrated into their educational programs
- Consultative services to teachers, classroom aides and parents
- In-service training for staff
- Preparation of specialized materials for student's use

NEWS

South Central PA Consortium for Excellence & Equity: 2nd Annual Middle School Forum

"*Wise Up to Rise Up: Climbing Up Mountains & Tearing Down Barriers*" was the theme of this year's Middle School Forum. Two hundred forty students and 30 adults from 24 schools (both public and private) schools attended the event on October 31st. The goal for this one-day Forum was to help support the development of the leadership and academic potential of diverse middle level students. This learning experience was designed to inspire emerging student leaders to seek high levels of personal and academic success and accept

leadership responsibilities for making positive contributions to their families, schools, and society, to develop a network of students that supports possible future collaboration among these emerging leaders, and to engage students in activities that will foster personal leadership development, build a diverse community, and assist in establishing meaningful leadership activities back in their home district. Key presenters included Zach Gowen, professional wrestler and youth empowerment speaker, and Carlos Ojeda, Jr., CEO of CoolSpeak and youth empowerment speaker.

Legislative Event

CAIU was represented at the PAIU Day on the Hill. Holly Brzycki, Supervisor of Online Learning, Dr. Janilyn Elias, Program Director, and Eric Bostick, Preschool Supervisor, attended with me. The House recently cancelled their session day, but we were able to visit the offices of Patty Kim and





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Ron Marsico. We shared information about the work of Intermediate Units in general and the CAIU in particular.

Fall Superintendents' Conference

The Fall Superintendents' Conference was held on November 1-3, 2017. This year's theme was "Integrating the 4Cs: Taking Teaching and Learning to the Next Level." We began the conference with a team building event, BreakoutEDU. Karen Ditzler, CAIU Instructional Technology Specialist, led the superintendents through an engaging and interactive session on ways to integrate the 4Cs (Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity) into classroom instruction. Karen helped the superintendents to explore no-tech, low tech and high tech methods and strategies that can be used to meet students' learning needs. Ken Kay, CEO of EdLeader21, and Karen Garza, President and CEO, Battelle for Kids, talked with the superintendents about "The Why, What, and How of 21st Century Education."



Student Services

PAIU 1st Annual Student Services Conference: 'Stand Up for Children'

- The PAIU (PA Association of Intermediate Units) organized the first annual Student Services conference for district and IU staff across the state. The conference was held on November 1-3 in Pittsburgh with approximately 250 attendees. CAIU Student Services underwrote the conference registration costs for the districts in IU15. Our area had good representation and reported positive feedback about the conference. There were 10 District administrators (from 7 districts) as well as additional CAIU administrators attending and CAIU TaC staff who presented.

Hill Top Academy Canine Committee

- Dr. Janilyn Elias, Program Director, has re-convened the CAIU Canine Committee to review our therapy dog procedures and practices. The committee is also reviewing various therapy dog providers and trainers in order to update our partnership agreements and internal procedures. Many of the therapy dogs who had been assigned to Hill Top Academy have retired and we are seeking to continue this very valuable program.

Suicide Prevention Training

- We have staff who have been trained in QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) Suicide Prevention, and we are working with PDE to receive funding for Train the Trainer resources.

Capital Area Mental health Program (CAMhP)

- Due to additional student referrals, we are planning to open an additional CAMhP class this December.



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Coaches & Initiatives

- As part of our IEP Compliance initiative and professional development, we are focusing on improving connections between executive functioning and transition planning documentation in both IEP development and progress monitoring.

Hill Top Academy

- On the November 1st Act 80 afternoon at Hill Top Academy, staff participated in a variety of differentiated professional development activities. These trainings included: Breakout Edu, Mental Health Diagnosis and Educational Identification, Google Classroom and PCA ACCESS Billing.
- HTA hosted a school-wide PBIS event on October 31st. Each classroom had the opportunity to build a catapult and compete against the other classrooms to see which one could launch a pumpkin the furthest. The classrooms also made scarecrows demonstrating LABS behaviors. High school classrooms created and ran fall themed carnival games for the younger students. To wrap up the event everyone enjoyed cupcakes donated by Giant.
- Students continue to track their miles each day for the Billion Mile Race. Through the support of Physical Education teacher, Cheryl Park, Hill Top students have logged 1,266 miles to date!
- On Friday, October 27th, Hill Top K-8 students enjoyed Trick or Treating at our neighboring building (The University of Pittsburgh Child Welfare Training Development Center).
- On Tuesday, October 24th, HTA participated in Apple Crunch Day, a Penn State Health and Wellness initiative. Students were able to sample and learn about a variety of apples.

Interagency & Social Workers

- Two administrators and two social workers have been trained in Mental Health First Aid. The training is provided through PaTTAN and designed to help people, who work with teens, recognize potential mental health concerns and then to provide support and resources to the teen to deal with the problem.

Preschool/Early Intervention

- The preschool staff's professional development this month focused on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and Trauma Informed Approach as well as increasing participation in naïve learners.
- Preschool Parent Orientation Meetings have been scheduled with the 24 school districts and families of children who will transition into school age program in the 2018-19 school year. Meetings will take place in November and December.
- Early Intervention Connections hosted a parent panel at the CAIU for Infant Toddler families receiving early intervention services that will be transitioning into the Preschool Program. Four preschool families shared their experience about early intervention. In addition, Heather Donovan shared her role as an Inclusion Consultant to the participants and Kathleen Blazey, Preschool Director at Aldersgate Preschool discussed her experiences with the CAIU Preschool Program. Mary Mahoney-Ferster, Include Me From the Start Consultant, discussed the importance of including children with disabilities in general education classrooms.
- The Preschool Program hosted a Social Emotional Literacy Night at the CAIU. Approximately 50 participants attended and engaged in hands-on activities focusing on social-emotional books. Families who are currently receiving early intervention services in the Infant/Toddler Program and the CAIU Preschool Program were in attendance.



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Community Outreach

- Jean Gray, Lara Borne and Barb Stolz conducted a CARA's Kit Training at The Joy Center on November 2nd. There were 22 participants.
- Lara Borne and Jean Gray provided a hands-on training focusing on visual supports and social-emotional development for the preschool staff at Grace Christian Preschool on November 7th.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing/DHH

- As part of the ongoing collaboration between our DHH classrooms, the students from Deb Genet's DHH class visited, the students in Jennifer McLaughlin's class at Conewago Elementary (see photos). The afternoon was a Monster theme and the older students read monster books to the younger students and then made paper monsters. Perhaps the best part for the students was the monster snacks that they made and shared together. Both teachers and students enjoyed the time together and look forward to more opportunities to bond throughout the year.

Speech

- Speech pathology requires a very wide range of skills in order to best serve a wide range of potential populations. Because of that, it can be challenging for clinicians to continue to develop their skills in all areas of the field, Dr. Dorsey has asked the clinicians to build off of our internal expertise and engage in co-observations throughout the year. He strategically paired clinicians in environments that are quite different from their current caseload. This exercise will continue to keep our clinicians abreast of the many aspects of their job that include private school settings, center based schools, public schools, and involve needs such as articulation, fluency, social language, assistive technology, feeding and swallowing, among others. These observations will occur throughout the year and the clinicians will share their learning at an end-of-the-year department meeting.

Vision

- Roseanna Stillwagon and Stephanie Casey will be representing the vision staff at the HELIX conference on November 13-15. The IU vision team will meet as a group after their return to discuss what the staff can learn from the conference.

Equitable Participation

- On Thursday, November 2nd, Meg Taylor-Makuch participated in the Fall Meeting of Nonpublic Administrators hosted by David Colestock and his team. As a lead for our equitable participation team, Meg spoke to the private school administrators about the services available to private schools for the 17-18 school year. We hope to continue to see an increase in the number of requests that we receive for our coaching services.

November 2017 Data Governance Update

- The Data Quality Network (DQN) continues to meet monthly by connecting via video conference to other IUs. Presenters from PDE reviewed the Special Education December





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child count, Act 16 collection, and various resources for PIMS administrators. For more information on the Data Quality Network including session recordings and resources, please visit www.dataqualitynetwork.net.

Loysville Youth Development Center

- Twenty-one of the 105 students enrolled already had their GED or High School Diploma when they arrived but will attend school.
- One student passed the GED and eleven students took the ASVAB test in October.
- Two trainers from Collins Writing worked with the staff and will return to work with teachers in the classroom in January.
- LYDC administrators and staff are working with Holly Brzycki to develop CAOLA courses more suited to LYDC needs. These courses will have limited need for external links and more use of printed supporting materials. Keeping appropriate links open while blocking all other links is an issue of security at the Loysville site.

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- **“My Bike” Presentation and Parade Event:** On Tuesday, November 14th, we had the privilege to, once again, host the **“My Bike”** event on behalf of Variety - the Children’s Charity.
- Held New Employee Orientation for 20 employees who have started since the beginning of the school year.
- Attended Advocacy Day training provided by PASA and PASBO.
- Participated in the Instructional Rounds visit at Big Spring SD.